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OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 44 No. 59 Pages: 12 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
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Crematoriums to get hi-tech touch

- Capacity to be increased with surge in COVID deaths
- MLA, MCC and MUDA officials inspect facilities

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (RK&BCT)- Mysuru city's existing crematoriums are being prepared to work overtime to cope with the surging number of deaths from escalating Coronavirus outbreak. On an average, five people are dying every day in the second wave of COVID-19 as shown in the daily evening media bulletin released by the District Administration.

Plans are afoot to modernise the existing crematoria at the foot of Chamundi Hill and the one at J.P. Nagar. One un-used crematorium at Jayanagar would be made ready for service from Apr. 19.

Last evening, Chamaraja MLA L. Nagendra and a team of officials from the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) led by Commissioner Shilpa Nag, MUDA team led by Chairman H.V. Rajeev and Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh visited crematoria and burial grounds in city to take stock of the situation.

The inspection comes in the wake of Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri seeking a status report on the condition and capacity of the crematoria in city.

Till now, the crematorium at Vijayanagar Fourth Stage on Hunsur Road — constructed by MUDA — was reserved to exclusively cremate the COVID-dead. This crematorium is already a hi-tech one with both gas and electric burners.

During the visit of the official team, residents complained of unbearable body-burning smell. They had also complained to the MCC that on an average, eight to nine dead bodies are burnt there every day and each body takes at least an hour to be reduced to ashes. "If it was one or two bodies like before, it was somehow manageable. But every day over nine bodies are cremated here as there is a surge in COVID cases and the smell is unbearable," the residents complained.

(See CREMATORIUM on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-5 for a special article titled *"Criminalisation of Politics, a dangerous trend."* —Ed

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 17th April 2021

Skill training for youths at RUDSET Institute

Mysuru, Apr. 17- RUDSET Institute, Mysuru, sponsored by Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Trust and Canara Bank, has invited applications from eligible youths for undergoing skill training programme and to take-up self employment venture.

Youths between the age group of 18 to 45 years and those residing in the rural areas of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Mandya districts having BPL card need only apply. The said skill training programmes are free of cost with compulsorily residential basis, free boarding and lodging facility.

Training will be imparted in Paper bag, Paper Cover and File-Making (10 days); Electric Motor Rewinding & Repairs (30 days); Embroidery & Fabric Painting (30 days); Candle-Making (10 days); Agarbathi-Making (10 days).

For further information contact the Director, RUDSET Institute, Main road, Hinkal, Mysuru - 570 030 or Ph : 0821-2519663 or Mob: 9449860466.

Post-harvest loan scheme for farmers

Mysuru, Apr. 17- In an effort to catalyze the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets, Government of India has launched Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and is providing loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore, according to a statement released by Joint Director of Agriculture.

Under the above scheme, loan will be provided by the banks to all the eligible beneficiaries such as farmers, marketing cooperative societies, agri-entrepreneurs and agriculture start ups.

The scheme will facilitate setting up and modernisation of key elements of the value chain including warehouses, silos, sorting and grading units, cold chains and ripening chambers.

Farmers and entities listed above will be able to avail the loan of up to Rs. 2 crore from the nationalised banks, commercial banks or any other financial institutions as empanelled by the Government for the scheme.

Eligible farmers can contact the nearest bank or Department of Agriculture for more details, according to a release.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

I am not surprised even when my well-meaning friends declare that they have stopped subscribing to newspapers as they have access to e-editions and myriad other information avenues. As a dyed-in-the-wool print-edition addict, I begin my day with a cup of tea in one hand and a newspaper in the other. Let me devote this 'Middle' for a well-deserved paean for our paper boys who adapt themselves to different weather conditions with undimmed tenacity and reach to us our favourite dailies on time. They all sit in the sprawling courtyard of a temple deftly inserting the fliers, leaflets and handouts. Only the paper boys' fingers know how to impose the slippery advertisements nimbly between the pages. The paper boys' lives are not drab, dull and an endless saga of sadness. Some of them are highly qualified and have great tales of compassion and kindness to share. Some are showered with various gifts by the aged parents whose wards have moved away in search of greener pastures. Some are given umbrellas during rainy seasons. Some gift them with thick water-proof bags to put the papers in. The paper boys have to be extremely attentive of their task since they have to memorise the mohalla, the street and the door numbers to distribute papers and magazines accordingly. Therefore, they suspend their pranks and jests temporarily between 4 am and 8 am. So, when the paper boy tosses the newspaper from the gate next time, catch it sportively like an IPL cricketer and give a smile. The boy will surely reciprocate it and you can even hear his muffled apology 'Sorry, sir!' — *C. Naganna in Deccan Herald*

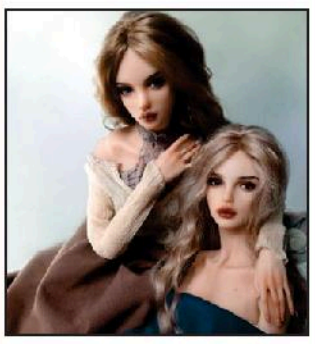
NEWS SPARKLERS

Paper bottle turns into plastic

Seoul: South Korean beauty brand Innisfree has attracted a lot of criticism after a bottle labeled as being made of paper turned out to be plastic simply wrapped in thin cardboard.

Innisfree, a company that specializes in naturally-inspired beauty products, apparently didn't expect anyone to actually check if the bottle for its face serum was actually made of paper, as suggested by the texture of the packaging and the "Hello, I'm paper bottle" branding printed on it. Only someone did check, slicing open the thin cardboard only to find a regular plastic bottle inside. This person posted photos of their discover on a Facebook group called "No Plastic Shopping" and it didn't take long for them to go viral.

Most realistic-looking ball-jointed dolls



Ukraine: Anastasia, a talented artist from the Ukraine, creates ball-jointed dolls so realistic-looking that you'd be forgiven for mistaking them for real, live girls.

The artist, who goes by "Elsyn" on Instagram, spends a lot of time making sure that every little detail on her amazing dolls is perfect. From the color of their skin, to the nails on their delicate fingers or the contour of their eyes and lips, they look nothing like the dolls you usually see on toy store shelves. But then again, these are not toys. For collectors, they are almost like living beings, and most of the people who get them end up naming them and making customs clothes for them as well.

The Kiev-based artist showcases her creations on Instagram, but sells them via other online platforms. And her dolls are flying off the shelves, as evidenced by the fact that no dolls are listed on her accounts as of this writing.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Intense Joint pain & swelling predominantly involving joints of lower limits, especially base of great toe and ankles, could be due to Gout. It is because of deposition of uric acid crystals into the joint causing inflammation. Risk factors: Alcoholism, renal disease, increased intake of red meat of sweetened beverages. Preventive Measures: Avoid alcohol, increase intake of waterAvoid red meat, sea food Exercise.

Dr. Sangeetha K.N. - Consultant Rheumatology

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

A Johns Hopkins study found up to 10 kinds of antibiotics in the feather meal fed to chickens at factory farms. The antibiotics are used to make the chickens grow faster. You get the antibiotics second hand by eating fast food chicken. Antibiotics, when consumed, destroy the human microbiome.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	APR.15	APR.16
Day's Positive Cases	327	415
Total Positive Cases	59,748	60,163
Day's Discharges	199	253
Total Discharges	56,142	56,395
Day's Deaths	5	5
Total Deaths	1,098	1,103
Total Active Cases	2,508	2,665

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Ph.D Awardees

Mysuru, Apr. 17- **The University of Mysore (UoM)** has awarded Ph.D in Co-operation to **Siddhartha S. Vishwam** for his thesis 'An Economic Analysis of Souharda Co-operative Banks in Karnataka' submitted under the guidance of Dr. B.S. Chandrashekara.

G.N. Komala has been awarded Ph.D in Kannada by UoM for her thesis 'Janapada Kshetrakke Ambalike Hiriyanna Avara Koduge' submitted under the guidance of Dr. Kokila.

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, has awarded Ph.D in Electrical and Electronics Engineering Sciences to **S. Divya** for her thesis 'Power Quality Study of Power System with Large Penetration of Renewable Energy Sources' submitted under the guidance of Dr. P. Shivakumar

REALLY...?

- *Nagarahole National Park, also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park, is a charming 247 square mile long reserve located in Kodagu and Mysuru district of Karnataka. Decorated with rich forest cover in the west of Kabini river, Nagarahole National Park is counted as one of the well-known national parks of India.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher: *Make a sentence in which one word is repeated 4 times.*

Tintu: *Lara Dutta marries Brian Lara and becomes Lara Lara!!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.56
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.15
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.30
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.36

VOICE OF THE READER

Heli Tourism

Abandon non-sustainable development plans

Sir,

Being a citizen of Mysuru, I feel pained by the decision of authorities concerned to cut down precious trees to make way for new helipads near the iconic Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel for the proposed Heli Tourism Project.

During my childhood days, just 15-20 years ago, I remember the streets of Mysuru were shaded by large trees with ample foliage. As kids we always played around them for shade from the summer sun. Today travelling down the major roads of Mysuru during summer is such an unpleasant experience, primarily due to cutting down of these road side trees for developmental works.

I agree that as a society development is critical for progress. But development at the cost of health of nature and thereby the well-being of its citizens is untenable.

I hope the authorities will rephrase the word development with "sustainable development" in the dictionaries of the Government. Mysuru from pre-independence times has been a Model State and I hope that we can keep this tradition intact and lead the way with a sustainable development model for the city.

I firmly believe the plans to cut trees for new helipads near Lalitha Mahal is detrimental to the above cause and the authorities should abandon such non-sustainable development plans.

—Abhay M.S. Aradhya
Mysuru
15.4.2021

MCC, Police to intensify drive against mask-less citizens

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (YDS&SSV)- With around 90 percent of Corona positive patients under home quarantine in city, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj has asked those with comorbidities to get tested in hospitals and get treatment.

Talking to reporters here yesterday, he said primary contacts must get examined in hospitals by taking X-ray and consult doctors for line of treatment. The health bulletin shows that over 80 percent of positive cases were from the Corporation limits.

Action plan has been prepared for all nine MCC Zones. Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri has directed the Corporation authorities to take up regular sanitation of houses of primary contacts and to make mini-containment zones, he said.

Primary contacts were taken in the Government vehicles for testing and treatment in nearby Primary Health Centres. Fifteen day home quarantine has been made compulsory if there were more than two positive patients in each house. Officials would keep a watch on them, he added.

Dr. Nagaraj said there were reports that primary contacts were roaming around freely on streets and such persons were under observation. The District Administration has set up 53 vaccination centres in city. Vaccine was being given free of cost in most Government and Private facilities. People above 45 can avail the same, he said.

Drive intensified: The Health Officer said Rs. 94,000 fine amount has been collected in nine Zones of the Corporation from people for not wearing mask or maintaining social distancing. The drive will be intensified across the city with the help of Police Department against negligent public. The citizens must wear mask and maintain social distance to prevent the spread of pandemic, he added.

Property tax complaints: Helpline launched

Mysuru, Apr.17- As a measure to address citizen queries regarding payment of revised property tax, online payment and plan approvals, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has launched a Helpline.

A press release from the MCC Commissioner said that the queries on property tax payment can either be mailed along with a screenshot of the clarification sought to the dedicated e-mail: *mccrevenuehelpdesk@gmail.com* or contact the Helpline No. 99807-53325 during office hours (10 am to 5.30 pm) either on *WhatsApp* or phone.

The release further said that following a Government Order, some revision in tax slabs have been incorporated in property tax for the year 2021-22, for which necessary changes have been made in the software.

However, some property owners are raising doubts regarding tax revision and are petitioning the MCC with queries seeking clarifications and clarity. As such the Helpline has been launched to address public queries.

In respect of Building Plan approvals, the members of the public must apply only through a Registered Architect, Engineer or Planner. In case of any problems, they can send e-mail along with a screenshot to: *jdtpmcc@gmail.com* or contact Mob: 99013-63683 or 90350-42331 during office hours.

Centre cuts Remdesivir price from Rs. 5,400 to Rs. 3,500

New Delhi, Apr. 17 (SSV)- The Government of India has slashed the price of Remdesivir from Rs. 5,400 to Rs. 3,500 for the benefit of Corona patients and has supplied 6.69 lakh bottles to various States in the last five days, said Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda (DVS).

He held a meeting with Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, S. Aparna, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceutical, Shubra Singh, Chairwoman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, Dr. V.G. Somani, Drug Controller General of India and Subodh Kumar, Personal Secretary here regarding production and distribution of Corona connected drugs.

Later, in a press release, DVS said the manufacturing of Remdesivir had been increased from 28.63 lakh bottles to 41 lakh bottles per month. Steps had been taken to step up production of medicines used in the treatment of Corona, especially Remdesivir. Six Pharmaceutical companies have bagged licence to manufacture Remdesivir injection. A month before, the production capacity of this injection was 38.8 lakh bottles and now it had been increased by another 10 lakh bottles per month, he said.

Continuing he said, the export of this injection has been banned and its distribution is likely to be streamlined in the next few days.

Thanks to Government intervention, this injection was now available for Rs. 3,500 as against Rs.5,400 a few months ago. The companies concerned have been asked to manufacture to meet the demand from hospitals. At the same time, instruction had been given to the Drugs Controllers of all States to check the black marketing of this injection, he said.

DVS said the production of domestically manufactured vaccines was going on in expected level. The Russian-made Sputnik-5 vaccine was being imported soon, he added.

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Time : 10 am to 9 pm
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NEWS BRIEFS

Safai Karmachari Commission Chairman to tour district

Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Commission Chairman M. Shivanna and Secretary R. Rama will be touring the district on Apr. 19. On their arrival in Mysuru, they will visit Chamundi Hill at 8.30 am and will be holding a meeting at 9 am to discuss problems faced by Pourakarmikas. Later, they will visit Pourakarmika's Colony located at the foot of Chamundi Hill. At 11.30 am, they will hold a meeting at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road to address the concerns of Pourakarmikas, according to press release.

Inauguration and Seminar

Allama Research and Cultural Foundation will be inaugurated at a programme to be held at RamaGovinda Rangamandira in Nrupatunga Kannada School premises, Ramakrishnanagar, on Apr. 18 at 10 am. A seminar on Democracy and its Pillars (Columns) — Legislature, Executive, Judiciary and Media — will be held on the occasion. High Court Judge Justice Ashok G. Nijagannavar will inaugurate and speak on 'Democracy and Judiciary.' Former MLA YSV Datta will talk on 'Democracy and Legislature.' Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Executive Director D.P. Prakash will speak on 'Democracy and Executive' and senior journalist Dr. Jagadish Koppa will talk on 'Democracy and Media.'

Staging of play at Natana

Natana School of Theatre Arts has organised staging of Kavya Kadame Nagarakatte's play 'Door Number Yentu' by Vinyas theatre troupe at its premises in Ramakrishnanagar tomorrow at 6.30 pm. The play is directed by Dr. Chidananda N.K. Soraba.

WATER LEVEL

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Maximum	:	**124.80** feet
Today	:	**97.21** feet
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MUDA prepares DPR for Group Housing Projects at three places in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr.17 (RK&DM)- Faced with hurdles in the land acquisition process for formation of residential Layouts, the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) is now planning to execute a Mega Group Housing Projects in a bid to ease the growing housing demand in city.

H.V. Rajeev

Thanks to Private builders and Housing Societies which are forming Layouts at a fast pace after acquiring land from farmers and other land owners in the outskirts of the city, by giving them appropriate compensation in quick time, the MUDA has been struggling hard to find space for formation of its own Layouts.

The MUDA has also largely failed in its attempts to form residential Layouts on a 50:50 ratio agreement with farmers. As such, MUDA as an alternative solution for its mega housing projects, has planned to execute Multi-Storeyed Group Housing Projects at lands currently available with it at different locations in the city and distribute houses to the needy at an affordable price.

As a first step in this regard, the MUDA has prepared a DPR (Detailed Project Report) for construction of a whopping 1,100 houses under Group Housing Scheme on the lines of BDA (Bengaluru Development Authority), at three locations in the city — Vijayanagar 4th Stage, Dattagalli and Gokulam 3rd Stage (at the vast space around MysuruOne Centre in Doctor's Corner).

MUDA has planned to construct 550 houses at Vijayanagar 4th Stage, 250 at Dattagalli and 300 at Gokulam. It has prepared DPR for execution of three ambitious projects, according to which, 14-storyed structures will come up in each site.

While the cellar space (basement) will be utilised for vehicle parking, the rest of the 13 floors will have houses (single, double and treble bedrooms). This ambitious Group Housing Project, involving construction of a total of 1,100 houses, is estimated to cost Rs.500 crore.

The MUDA, after obtaining sanction for Group Housing Project at the Council, will submit the same to the Government along with the DPR for approval.

While preparing the DPR, the MUDA has taken into consideration allotment of houses with all civic amenities such as power, drinking water, sanitation, drainage etc., and other necessary infrastructure such as park, open space, lift etc., at affordable prices to the needy.

Upon completion of the project, the MUDA plans to allot houses on first-come-first-served basis among eligible applicants.

MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev told *Star of Mysore* that though the basic objective of MUDA is to form residential layouts and distribute sites among eligible applicants, the Authority has planned to go vertical due to acute space crunch by executing multi-storeyed Group Housing Projects, which consume much lesser space.

Maintaining that with rising housing demands, the only option for MUDA seems to go vertical, he said that distribution of houses at affordable prices too is in the mind of MUDA.

Pointing out that in the first stage, the MUDA plans to execute Group Housing Projects at three locations in the city, he said that the price of houses will be fixed based on the actual cost incurred.

He further said that depending upon the success of the three projects, MUDA will go for more such projects in later stages. Once completed, this will be the first such Group Housing Project undertaken by a Government body in the city, he added.

MUDA to call applications for distribution of CA sites

In a bid to augment its revenues, MUDA will shortly invite applications for allotment of a good number of 250 CA (Civic amenities) sites in the city.

Dr. D.B. Natesh

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh said that preparations are underway for inviting applications from Associations, Organisations, Trusts and such other public service bodies for allotment of 250 CA sites available at different localities.

Pointing out that these CA sites are available at MUDA localities and other private layouts, he said that these sites will be allotted only for specific public purposes such as Educational Institutions, Community Health Centres, Kalyana Mantaps, Community Halls, Old Age Homes, Spiritual Centres etc.

Noting that all the applications received after notification will be thoroughly scrutinised for checking the claims of the applicants, Dr. Natesh said that the successful applicants must construct building only for the purpose mentioned by them and not for other purposes.

Stating that MUDA will allot CA sites only to deserving applicants with a set of conditions, the MUDA Commissioner warned that allotment will be cancelled if the allottees are found to have violated the conditions.

He further said that the allotment of CA sites will not only fetch a good sum of money for cash-strapped MUDA, but will also be of help to citizens. Maintaining that plans are being finalised for inviting applications, he said that the notification calling for applications may be issued in a fortnight.

Don't play hide-and-seek by switching off mobile phones, ADC tells Corona positive patients

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (RK&SSV)- While Union and State Governments are trying to check the galloping COVID-19 cases, people who tested Corona positive were playing hide-and-seek with the District Administration by furnishing wrong information, rued Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) **Dr. B.S. Manjunatha Swamy.**

The District Administration has stepped up RT-PCR testing for speedy detection of Corona positive cases and for early treatment. For this reason, the number of free COVID Testing Centres has been increased.

Once the test results come, the COVID-19 Control Room staff inform the people about they testing positive. But most of the citizens switch off their mobile phones and go into hiding once they come to know that they have tested positive, he said adding that the other set of people would simply inform that they would prefer home quarantine since they don't have cough or fever, but are not ready to get admitted to COVID-19 Care Centres or District Hospitals.

This attitude of people has become a big headache for the District Health Department Officers as they don't know whether those Corona positive patients had taken proper medicine from doctors or not. Tracking them was a difficult task as many give wrong addresses or simply switch off their mobile phones fearing hospitalisation, he added.

The Additional DC said cooperation of Corona positive patients was must to track down secondary contacts and subject them to RT-PCR testing. This will check further spreading of the contagion to others. Therefore, citizens must furnish correct address at the time of giving the swab for testing for the benefit of all, he noted. The citizens should leave it to doctors to decide whether they required hospitalisation or home isolation depending upon the severity of the disease. Since medicines are available to treat Coronavirus, people must consult doctors instead of self-medication, he added.

It may be recalled, last year, a person had given the mobile number of the then Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar at the time of testing. Later, when the concerned staff called that number to inform him about testing positive, they came to know that the person had given the DC's number.

Thoughts on political elections... By Karkala Ananda Bhat

Criminalisation of politics, a dangerous trend

Of late, Karnataka is in the news for all the wrong reasons, as a prominent politician of the ruling party was allegedly caught in a sleaze CD scam. Perhaps, the scam may fade out just like any other similar CD scams that had rocked the State in the past.

But the current sleaze CD case explains the deteriorating moral standards of politics in Karnataka as well as in the country. **The case also throws light on how the number-game and power-politics overrides everything in our Parliamentary Democracy.**

With the number-game and caste-politics ruling the roost, every political party displays the tendency to ignore the righteousness and honesty of candidates and give tickets to only such candidates who can win either by hook or crook, through money and muscle power. **Such a tendency of political parties to give tickets to candidates based on caste and other credentials has resulted in rampant pollution of our political system, which has its roots in democratic principles.**

Taking note of such a dangerous tendency, the Supreme Court (SC), our country's Apex Court, in 1978, rolled out a set of guidelines for upholding democratic principles, which are very much relevant even now.

The SC, while setting out the guidelines, had observed that elections should be free and fair, with the involvement of all. The Court had opined that free and fair elections is elemental for protecting the fundamental principles of Democracy.

The Supreme Court, in its another ruling in 2018, directed the Parliament to free politics from the cesspool of criminalisation of politics. The SC, in yet another ruling in February last year that targeted **political parties, said that political parties must give prominence for giving poll tickets to clean, honest, capable and deserving candidates rather than taking into account their winnability.**

But successive Governments seem to have no will-power to honour the SC's directions while allotting party tickets to candidates for elections. With parties giving the go-by for principles and ideologies, money and muscle-power seem to have taken over the polls, with anti-social elements becoming all the more active during election time.

Even the elections are fraught with fraud and loopholes, as can be seen by the **undue delay in disposal of election petitions, limited powers to the Election Commission, non-transparency in financial transactions of political parties, no-ban on pre-poll and exit polls and the havoc of paid news. All these issues have left the Election Commission paralysed.**

"People shouldn't be afraid of their Government. Governments should be afraid of their people," said British writer Alan Moore. And in a Democracy, no matter how fragile or restricted, it is the citizens who have the power.

Electoral Reforms

Several Commissions and Committees formed by the Governments in recent years have come with a variety of suggestions on electoral reforms. The **Goswami Committee formed in 1990 and Vohra Committee constituted in 1993**, have come up with glaring electoral reforms, which needs to be implemented at the earliest for checking electoral frauds and malpractices.

Later in 1998, the then UPA Government formed a Committee headed by veteran politician Indrajit Gupta on putting a **cap on poll expenses** by candidates. Thereafter, **in 1999, the Law Commission** in its 170th report to the Government, came up with a set of **legal reforms in the election process.**

The Election Commission in 2004 and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission in 2008, came up with several important recommendations to the Government regarding **poll reforms.** However, it is disappointing to note that the Legislature has so far failed to legislate the recommendations.

On the other hand, the Indian voters are an unorganised lot, with deep divisions based on religion, caste, creed, language etc. Politicians have taken such a situation to their own advantage, by creating divisions among the voters and also luring them with money, liquor and such other freebies, in exchange for votes.

By doing all sorts of irregularities and malpractices, the politicians have criminalised elections, by their criminal acts such as issuing threats and intimidation. **Criminals, who used to contest the polls as independent candidates in the past, have now grown in courage to contest on party tickets, thus posing a grave threat to the very fundamentals of our unique democratic set up.**

Election Watchdog Findings

Meanwhile, the criminalisation of politics has grown beyond bounds. According to the findings of watchdog bodies — **National Election Watch (NEW) and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** — out of the current 539 Lok Sabha MPs, 233 MPs have criminal cases pending against them, which forms a whopping 43 percent of our Lok Sabha representatives, as per the self-attested affidavit furnished by them to the election authorities.

Also, 185 MPs, who contested the Lok Sabha polls in 2014, have criminal cases, which account for 34 percent while 162 MPs had criminal background in 2009 LS polls, accounting for 30 percent. In another alarming statistics, 76 MPs elected in 2009, 112 MPs elected in 2014 and 159 MPs elected in 2019, had declared that they had serious criminal cases pending against them.

Political dynamics

The election of criminals in polls has not only posed a threat to our electoral system, but also our Democracy. **The slow paced legal process has only emboldened our criminal politicians,** who through their money and muscle-power, have been successful in overturning the political dynamics.

Such unscrupulous politicians have become so powerful, that they can bear influence on our Legislature and Judiciary. They also indulge in rampant misuse of Administrative and Government machinery for meeting their own selfish ends.

Politicians with criminal background may use their power and authority to influence the criminal and other cases registered against them in the past and thus free themselves from the legal tangle.

In such a scenario, it would only be self-defeating if we allow politicians with criminal background to contest polls at any level. Also the candidature of a series of criminals in elections will leave the voters with little option to choose the elected representative of their choice. The candidature of unscrupulous candidates is also a test for our Democracy, as they strike at the very grassroots of our democratic set up. **It is high time that candidates with serious criminal background are barred from contesting any polls.**

Moral degradation

Cases have been registered against 29 MPs for hate-speech. According to an ADR report, candidates having a criminal background have 15.5 percent chance of winning while those having no criminal record, have an abysmally low chance of 4.7 percent of a win. This explains the moral degradation of our electoral politics, with voters too becoming corrupt and losing the right to question. Out of the 301 BJP MPs who were elected in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, 87 are facing serious criminal charges, while 19 of the 51 from Congress party, 6 of the 23 from DMK, 4 of the 22 from TMC and 8 of the 16 from JD (U) have a criminal background.

Out of the 542 MPs who were elected in the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, 315 (58 percent) became richer, turning into millionaires. In 2014, 443 MPs (82 percent) got richer while 475 MPs (88 percent) got richer in 2019 polls. In 2019, candidates who had lesser assets, stood at 1 percent chance to win while 218 candidates (21 percent) with more assets had a better chance to win.

All these statistics show that those who earned wealth immorally have a better chance of winning the polls. **As regards educational qualification is concerned, 128 MPs (24 percent) in the current Lok Sabha have poor educational background (5th to 12th standards)**, while 392 MPs (73 percent) have a qualification ranging from Degree to Doctoral degrees.

All these facts and figures only go to show that Indian Democracy is now in the hands of criminals, wealth accumulators and the corrupt. This worrying fact poses a threat to the very foundation of Democracy. In this backdrop, **it is vital to fast-track the trial against criminal politicians.** At the same time, it is also important that Courts must not show any leniency towards accused politicians during the course of trial and thus send a message that all are equal in the eyes of the law.

As a measure to end corrupt practices during elections, it is important to conduct widespread awareness campaigns among voters against falling prey to allurements and false promises, with the involvement of mature, responsible, informed youths, voluntary organisations, yuva mandals and other non-political organisations.

A quote from British writer Alan Moore reads: ***"People shouldn't be afraid of their Government. Governments should be afraid of their people"*** and to make this quote a reality in the Indian context, every voter must strive to bring about a change in our country, not just for the sake of himself or herself, but for the sake of we the people of this entire country that is Bharat.

[The author is a Freelance Journalist and a former Banker]

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

OMG ! Virus

Religion Vs Virus, who'll win? We will know soon as the *Kumbh Mela,* one of the largest religious gathering in the world, is underway.

It is shocking that the Government has given permission for the *Kumbh Mela* at a time when COVID cases are rising exponentially, Oxygen supplies are running low and *Remdesivir*, the crucial drug in the fight against COVID, is unavailable.

By the way, remember Tablighi Jamaat? In 2020, there was such outrage that it was made to seem like the gathering of about 2,000 Tablighi Jamaat members would "super-spread" Coronavirus and annihilate the entire Indian subcontinent. But, now when the Government allows the largest religious gathering on the planet, there is… Shhhhhhh! Silence.

Worse, back then even the World Health Organisation (WHO) did not know how dangerous Coronavirus was, but now we do and yet 30,00,000 people were allowed to congregate by the banks of river Ganga!

Meanwhile, the Tablighi Jamaat day before yesterday, on Thursday, finally got a judgement from the Delhi High Court granting it permission that allows 50 people to offer *Namaz* five times a day at Nizamuddin Markaz during Ramzan!

Religion is all consuming, be it a Hindu, a Christian, a Muslim, a Sikh, a Buddhist, a Jain…etc. It has a psychological grip on the human mind. That is why, Richard Dawkins observed, *"When one person suffers from a delusion, it is called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion, it is called religion."*

That said we cannot ignore the fact that today religion, in the form of pilgrimage, translates to tourism and affects the economy of a city. Which is why, instead of discouraging people from visiting *Kumbh Mela,* the Uttarakhand Government encouraged it.

The Uttarakhand State Government, which hosts the event in the holy city of Haridwar, promoted the event with advertisements in magazines and newspapers. I was reading *The Week* magazine dated March 14, when I chanced upon a four-page advertisement promoting *Kumbh Mela*.

The advertisement boldly reminded the reader, *"Haridwar is primmed up for arguably the world's most ancient and largest gathering of spirituality…"* While the State's CM, Trivendra Singh Rawat added, *"I recommend people to come by road and drive hassle-free through our newly-built flyovers and bridges."* At the end of the fourth page, the advertisement ended with, *"Devotees to be allowed at the Kumbh Mela only after producing negative RT-PCR report, issued no later than 72 hrs."* Wah!

Does the Uttarakhand Government think that tired and restless *Sadhus,* who have lived their lives as wandering monks, will voluntarily get an RT-PCR test and then wait for 72 hours for the result? Even if they do, does the administration think a *Sadhu,* who has waited for 12 years for this glorious moment, will simply walk away without a holy bath in the Ganga just because it produced a piece of paper that says POSITIVE? Laughable to say the least.

Our Governments do not think very deep before shutting down businesses and livelihoods. Our Governments penalises a citizen who does not wear a mask in his own car…. but somehow it cannot shut down a guaranteed "hyper-spreader" event?

Politicians and religions have taken over our minds, but just when we feel common sense has ceased to exist, we hear that this time the crowd at *Kumbh Mela* was 50% less. This shows there are people who are thinking about their health and not blindly attending holy events and jumping into holy waters.

As I type this article, news is coming in that our Prime Minister has requested the heads of various *Akharas,* sects, to keep this year's *Kumbh* a 'symbolic' event. But what does this mean? Does it mean the *Kumbh Mela* is going to be stopped?

Indeed, cajoling a group of people to do the right thing for the greater good is a better way to handle a situation in a democracy, but there is a line to be drawn. Should a Government keep waiting to get approvals from a group of *Akharas* when life of other Indians is on the line?

It's not just *Kumbh Mela* that is a 'hyper-spreader,' even the election rallies are. Yes, elections can be held following COVID protocol but not election rallies.

The Trinamool Congress had no problem when *Didi* wheeled herself into crowded election rallies swinging her plastered foot. But now when some polls indicate that BJP may win, her party colleagues say stop the election due to COVID.

Our Prime Minister in his inimitable style canvassed in West Bengal saying *'Didi-O-Didi'* to packed venues but then when it's time for *Mann Ki Baat,* he reminds us to maintain *'Do Gaj Ki Doori, Mask Hai Jaruri!'*

This dilly dallying by the Government and callous citizens reminds us of our State's Health Minister, who last year during the peak of Corona said, *"Only God can save us, awareness among the people is the only way."*

What he meant was, how can a Government protect its people if the people don't want to protect themselves? After all, the Government did not force people to attend *Kumbh Mela* or the election rallies.

For now, we are glad the PM has suggested *Kumbh Mela* be a "symbolic" event, which we hope means *Kumbh Mela* stops. And let's hope it is not a case of 'too little too late' and Haridwar, a city whose name literally means "Door leading to the Gods," does not end up becoming our door to COVID hell.

e-mail:
vikram@starofmysore.com

By-polls underway in State

Counting of votes on May 2

Mysuru, Apr.17 (DM)- The by-polls to Belagavi Lok Sabha Constituency and Maski and Basavakalyan Assembly segments began on a brisk note this morning.

The by-election of Belagavi LS seat was necessitated by the death of Suresh Angadi, who was a Union Minister of State for Railways, while the by-poll for Basavakalyan segment in Bidar district was necessitated by the death of sitting Congress MLA B.Narayanrao and that for Maski due to the defection of the then Congress MLA Pratapgouda Patil to the BJP.

The by-poll is taking place even as the country is witnessing a massive spike in COVID-19 infections. However, the polls are being held in accordance with COVID-19 SOPs and all precautionary and safety measures in place.

In Belagavi, the contest is mainly between the BJP and the Congress, although a couple of Independent candidates are also in the fray. While the BJP has fielded Mangala Angadi, wife of the late Union Minister Suresh Angadi, the Congress has fielded Satish Jarkiholi, a KPCC Vice-President and former Minister. Interestingly, the JD(S) has not fielded any candidate here.

In Maski segment of Raichur district, the ruling BJP has fielded turncoat Pratapgouda Patil, while the Congress has fielded Basanagouda Turvihal, who recently switched over to the Congress from the BJP. The JD(S) has not fielded a candidate here too. Turvihal, who had contested on a BJP ticket in the 2018 Assembly polls, had lost by a slender margin of less than 200 votes to Pratapgouda Patil who had contested on a Congress ticket then.

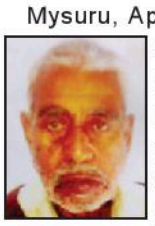
Basavakalyan Constituency in Bidar district seems to be a four-cornered contest. The Congress, which held the seat, has fielded Mala, wife of late MLA B.Narayanrao, while the ruling BJP has fielded Sharanu Salagar, a native of neighbouring Kalaburagi district. The JD(S) has fielded a Muslim candidate Syed Yasrab Ali Qadri. Mallikarjun Khuba, a former MLA from here, is contesting as an independent candidate after being denied the BJP ticket. With all the four candidates having their own clout in the segment, Basavakalyan is witnessing a four-cornered contest, unlike the other two Constituencies (Belagavi LS seat and Maski Assembly seat) which are witnessing a direct fight between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress.

The voting will conclude at 7 pm. The counting of votes will be taken up on May 2, along with the counting for the Assembly polls held for West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

By-poll is also being held today for Tirupati (SC) Lok Sabha seat in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, where former Karnataka Chief Secretary Ratnaprabha is contesting as BJP candidate.

Obituary

Mehaboob Ali Baig



Mysuru, Apr.17- Mehaboob Ali Baig (81), a resident of Lashkar Mohalla, passed away this morning after a brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, grand-children and a host of relatives and friends.

Namaz-e-Janaza will be held today at 5.30 pm at Masjid Azam, Ashoka Road. Funeral at Muslim Burial Ground, near Tipu Circle.

S. Anasuya

S. Anasuya (71), wife of late Prof. S.K. Anandateertha and a resident of Gokulam 3rd stage, passed away on Friday.

She leaves behind her son, Prof. S.A. Mohan Krishna, a Mechanical Engineering faculty of Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering in city and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Gokulam crematorium yesterday evening, according to family sources.

Srikanta

Srikanta (70), a retired Police Sub-Inspector and a resident of Netajinagar (Police Layout) , passed away on Friday. He leaves behind his wife Jayamma, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed yesterday evening.

Rajeshwari

Rajeshwari, retd. Government Teacher and wife of late Palanivel, Southern Railway, passed away yesterday. A resident of Vidyaranyapuram, she worked in various Govt Schools and retired from Metagalli School.

She leaves behind her son M.P. Mohan Kumar, daughters M.P. Manjula and M.P. Shashikala, daughter-in-law Sumathi Mohan, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at foot of Chamundi Hill.

Crematoriums

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh said that following complaints from the residents living around the Vijayanagar Fourth Stage crematorium, plans will be made to upgrade the crematorium so that smell does not emanate. "Industry-affilliated technical team would be assigned the work soon and steps will be taken to contain the smell within the crematorium as the dead bodies are burnt," he said.

Likewise, the crematoriums at the foot of Chamundi Hill (Harishchandra Ghat) and the J.P. Nagar Rudrabhoomi too will be modernised to increase the capacity. "The intention is to meet emergency cremations and not to inconvenience the people. An action plan is being prepared to increase the intake on par with the crematorium at Vijayanagar Fourth Stage," Dr. Natesh said.

The gas and electric crematorium constructed at J.P. Nagar seven to eight years back would be put to use. "So far, the crematorium has been in disuse for various reasons and we will commission it for use from Apr. 19. Bodies will be brought here and we have taken steps to start service in two days," he added.

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Helipad on Lalitha Mahal land

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar objects to public hearing about felling of trees

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (BCT)- Member of erstwhile Mysore royal family Pramoda Devi Wadiyar has objected to the public hearing called by the Forest Department on Apr. 23 to elicit public opinion on cutting of more than 100 trees for the proposed Heli-Tourism project in the surroundings of Lalitha Mahal Palace.

In a letter to Divisional Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Mysuru Division, Pramoda Devi has termed the public hearing as an unauthorised activity as the land in question is a not a public but a private property. The Department had publicised about the public hearing through media to be held on Apr. 23 at 11 am at Aranya Bhavan, Ashokapuram where public can air their opinion about tree felling.

In her letter, Pramoda Devi has referred to media reports pertaining to a land parcel situated at Survey Number 4 of Kurubarahalli — wooded area near existing Lalitha Mahal Helipad.

"It is learnt through the media reports that trees on the above land parcel are earmarked to be felled for the proposed Heli-Tourism and a public hearing in this regard is called for on 23rd April 2021 at Aranya Bhavan, by the Forest Department. I write to draw your attention to the writ petition filed by me in the High Court of Karnataka and the High Court verdict dated 19th June 2020, wherein it was held that the entire extent of Survey Number 4 is private property and the land parcel in question is part of that Survey Number," she has stated.

She further wrote, "In the light of the above judgement, I am writing to inform you that the proposed felling of trees is unauthorised and amounts to trespassing and as such drop this unauthorised activity of public hearing, failing which I will be constrained to take necessary steps to safeguard my interest and save the trees from being felled."

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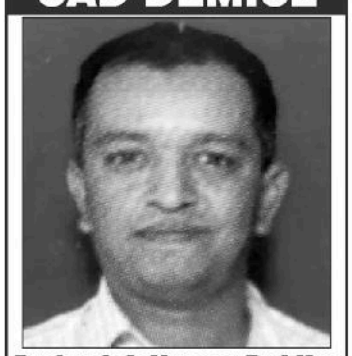


Ambarish Kumar Raj Urs

Yoga instructor at Jag Therapy, born 4th April 1964, passed away on 16th April 2021 at Mysuru.

Your selfless service will be remembered forever. We will miss you.

Condolences from Jag Therapy.

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.

Varsity for sculpture and art needed in State: Shilpakala Academy Chairman

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (RKB&SSV)- Karnataka Shilpakala Academy Chairman Veeranna M. Arkasali has stressed the need for establishing a University for Arts and Sculpture in the interest of students as well as for the growth of two fields.

He was speaking after inaugurating World Art Day-2021 as part of the birth anniversary of renowned painter, Leonardo da Vinci at Ravivarma Arts College here on Thursday.

He said there were 72 art schools all over the State including two Government institutions but none of them have uniform syllabus or examination pattern. A memorandum was recently submitted to Deputy Chief Minister and Higher Education Minister Dr C. N. Ashwathnarayan, seeking setting up of a University exclusively for Art and Sculpture.

The Minister was also given the copy of the common syllabus for these two fields, prepared by senior artists and art exponents. But Government was yet to take a call on this matter. It would be of great help for students of these two streams to pursue their studies if the Government establishes a Varsity.

Artists in crisis

Arkasali said hundreds of artists were in difficulty in the last one year due to COVID-19 pandemic and Department of Kannada and Culture must do something for their welfare immediately. There has been no big shows since March last year and the artworks done by them have remained unsold. They were passing through the difficult phase of life. Understanding their plight, the Department must extend financial help to artists.

It would be of great help in the current situation, he noted.

He said the annual award presentation by Shilpakala Academy is likely to be held in Mysuru. Date and venue will be decided once the COVID-19 situation comes under control.

A two-day drawing camp for students is planned in Udupi in Mysuru Division and the date will be announced soon. The purpose of the camp was to create interest among kids about drawing.

On the occasion, Manjunath N. Wali of Vijayapura and K. Suresh of Mysuru, presented demonstration on drawing.

Shivakumar Kesaramadu, Principal, Ravivarma Art Institute, Rajashekar Kadamba, noted theatre personality, Vinodkumar, Convener, Lalithakala Academy, Shivakumar, artist and others were present.

'Mukhyamantri' set to enter Guinness Record with staging of 736th show

Mysuru, Apr.17 (PM&SSV)-The 736th show of 'Mukhyamantri,' a political satire drama in Kannada, with 'Mukhyamantri' Chandru in lead role, will be staged at Kalamandira in city on Apr. 18 at 6.30 pm.

With this, all documents related to the play will be sent to the Guinness Book of World Records, as the lead role is being played by the same person for the last 41 years, and the drama is staged by amateur troupe, said Dr. Y.D. Rajanna, President, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, at a press conference at Pathrakartara Bhavan recently.

He said on this occasion, 'Mukhyamantri' Chandru and drama director B.V. Rajaram will be felicitated by Hunsur MLA H.P. Manjunath on the occasion.

Opposition Leader and former CM Siddharamaiah will inaugurate the function.

The entry to Kalamandira will be through free pass which will be distributed to interested citizens. In view of COVID-19 guidelines, only 500 persons will be allowed inside the auditorium. In case of more number, LED screens will be arranged outside for the sake of theatre-lovers.

On the same day, there will be a six minute video presentation on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called 'Ivare Mahanayaka' by District Officer, Department of Backward Classes Welfare. For press passes, contact Mob: 99869-33109 or 99003-77378.

Dr. K. Mahadev's syndicate to contest Vokkaligara Sangha polls

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (PM&DM)- With the State Vokkaligara Sangha polls scheduled to take place on May 16, the syndicate led by city-based Medical Practitioner Dr. K. Mahadev is going to contest the polls.

Addressing a press meet here on Thursday, Dr. Mahadev, a resident of V.V. Mohalla, said that he, along with his associates — Dr. M.B. Manjegowda and Corporator K.V. Sridhar — are going to contest for three posts of Director from Mysuru-Chamarajanagar-Ooty District quota.

Appealing the community voters to support the three-member syndicate headed by him, Dr. Mahadev highlighted his services to Vokkaligara Sangha for the past 20 years.

Asserting that he freed the Sangha from debt-trap in 2008, he alleged that the Sangha had fallen into wrong hands since 2014, which has to be rectified now.

Pointing out that the Sangha election is taking place on May 16, following a High Court direction, he said that there are 25,600 voters in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Ooty District of Tamil Nadu and appealed them to vote for his syndicate for the development of the Sangha in real terms.

Corporator K.V. Sridhar said that he has been actively involved in the Sangha activities as a member. Now he is contesting the polls for the Director post in order to serve the community members on a much higher-scale, he said.

Dr. M.B. Manjegowda, the third member of the syndicate, said that he is currently serving as a Director of the city-based MCDCC Bank. Noting that he has been serving the Co-operative sector for over 20 years, he appealed the community members to elect him as a Director of State Vokkaligara Sangha and thus give him an opportunity to serve them.

NCC cadets create awareness on COVID vaccination

NCC Cadets (Army Wing) of Sarada Vilas College creating awareness on the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19 by taking out a jatha from Krishnamurthypuram to Ashokapuram in city recently. The jatha was led by Principal Dr. M. Devika and NCC Army Wing Captain R.A. Manjunath. Picture right shows the ANO and Cadets of 13 KAR Bn of Maharaja's College, following the 'Tika Abhiyan' call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, created awareness by visiting various health units and City Railway Station recently. ANO Capt. Dr. Diwakar Chandy, SUO Santhosh, SUO Khan, SUO Drishya, JUO Gayathri and others participated in the awareness drive.

Nanjangud Srikanteshwara Temple shut for a month

Nanjangud, Apr. 17 (RS&DM)- The famed Srikanteshwara Temple at Nanjangud has been shut for a month, starting from Apr.16 due to the surge in COVID-19 pandemic.

The historic temple comes under the ambit of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The centuries old temple is one among the over 3,600 centrally protected monuments and 50 museums across the country. Following an order from the ASI, the temple will be shut for devotees from Apr.16 till May 15.

In Mysuru district, apart from Nanjangud's Srikanteshwara Temple, visitors and devotees will be restricted at Lakshmikanthaswamy Temple in H.D. Kote taluk, Keerthi Narayana and Vaidyanatheshwara Temple in Talakadu, Keshava Temple at Somanathapura in T. Narasipur taluk and Sidilu Mallikarjunaswamy Temple in Periyapatna taluk .

However, the routine pujas and rituals will continue as usual only in the presence of priests and staff.

Call us but do not visit Offices, Govt. employees tell public

- **27 MCC employees, three in Sub-Registrar Office test positive**
- **On an average, Mysuru reports 400 cases per day; death rates too see a spike**

Citizens standing in queue at the MCC Zonal Office in Yadavagiri this morning to pay tax.

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (RK&BCT) - Government officers in Mysuru have appealed general public to refrain from visiting offices citing the resurgence of COVID-19 positive cases. They have requested people to seek information through email, phone, fax or SMS instead of visiting offices physically.

Officers have been instructing visitors not to come to the office unless the work in very important. "A number of visitors come to offices every day to inquire about their pending work or some other reasons and hence we wanted to convey messages that if not urgent, avoid visiting the office," an officer from the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) said.

The system is being practiced at all Government offices including MCC, MUDA, CADA Office, Taluk Offices, all Zonal Offices of the MCC and also the Sub-Registrar offices.

The latest advisory comes in the wake of an officer at Sub-Registrar Office at Mini Vidhana Soudha in Nazarbad and three outsourced employees testing positive for COVID-19. Also, over 27 employees of MCC tested positive and two MCC employees have lost their lives in the past two days. The civic body has over 3,000 employees including 2,200 Pourakarmikas.

27 MCC employees test positive

Over 27 MCC employees tested positive for the virus as mass RT-PCR tests were conducted following Mayor Rukmini Madegowda contracting the disease. Many more employees who have undergone the tests are awaiting the results. As hundreds of people visit the MCC office every day, tracking the primary and secondary contacts has become a challenge.

Mysuru has been reporting an average of 400 cases per day and there has been an increase in the death rate during the on-going second wave of infection. As of yesterday, Mysuru had 2,665 active cases and added 415 infections in 24 hours. With this, the total number of people infected has gone up to 60,163 and 56,395 have been discharged.

Last evening's media bulletin released by the District Administration said that there has been five deaths taking the total number of people dying in Mysuru to 1,103. In the second wave itself, more than 55 people have lost their lives. Till now, 2,86,670 persons in the District have been vaccinated.

Extra safety measures

As some of the employees of the MCC and the Sub-Registrar's Office tested positive, extra precautions are being taken at all Government offices. Offices including Health Department, Revenue Department, engineering division, auditing wing and the MCC Zonal offices are noting down phone numbers of visitors to inform them of the work getting completed or pending. This is to avoid one-on-one meetings.

Several Police Stations and MCC Zonal Offices are taking applications from the public through the windows and the entry of outsiders has been barred. In the new and old Court complex too, entry of public has been banned with permission granted only to some lawyers.

At the entry points of all Court complexes, every person, including the members of the Bar, are being subjected to thermal scanning. If it is revealed that any one has the symptoms of COVID-19, he/she shall be denied entry into the Court Complex.

Take these precautions at office

- Most of the virus infections are contracted from equipment in the offices
- Avoid touching lift buttons or use a tissue to touch it. If you are taking the stairs, avoid touching the walls or railing.
- Avoid common equipment that directly come in contact with the face or mouth or even hands
- Avoid using landline telephones in common areas as static phones are virus carriers. Use mobile phones instead. Also, do not hand over your mobile phone to other colleagues
- Before beginning your day's work, disinfect the desk and the desktop
- Make sure you leave at least a seat's distance between you and your colleague
- If you absolutely have to touch a handle or a door knob, sanitise your hands immediately
- Avoid shaking hands. In case of a meeting, make sure there are not too many people in the room

'Hero' cremated with full State honours, gun salute

Policemen recall Hero's heroic deeds in 10-year service with Dog Squad

Mysuru, Apr. 17 (SBD& BCT)- Hero, the Labrador breed dog that served the Mysuru City Police since 2011, died of age-related ailments yesterday. He was taken into the Police force on Apr. 4, 2011 and was trained at Adugodi Police Dog Training Centre in Bengaluru. Later, he was included in the Dog Squad.

Hero was used in anti-sabotage checks and considered an 'expert' in grasping the scent of culprits and was a nightmare to drug-peddlers as it used to catch their scent from a distance. Training begins at an early age for the dog squad members. The pups are trained for a year at the Police Dog Training Centre and they are specially trained for crime duty, detection of explosives and narcotics.

Labrador Hero was known for its splendid performance at dog shows and also during mock rehearsals. In the line of duty too, Hero performed well and he was always taken to Mysuru Central Prison to unearth hidden stocks of ganja. He would be at the forefront of the search operations — conducted twice a month — and was successful in sniffing out the weed hidden in barracks.

Labrador breeds have strong sniffing ability and hence are used in the detection of narcotics and explosives. Their handlers have a tough regimen that begins with daily training from 6 am to 8 am and the dogs are routinely taken to all crime scenes to catch the scent of the criminal. The dogs are also sent to neighbouring districts in case of requirement during emergencies.

Usually a dog lives up to 10 to 12 years and Hero had served the Police force for 10 years and 12 days. So as per the procedure, the Police Department had written to the higher-ups that it was time for Hero to retire as he completed a 10-year service on Apr. 4. However, no order had been received from the higher officers.

Hero was suffering from a liver-related ailment since the last six months and it died yesterday morning, the dog's handlers said. It was a poignant moment for Hero's handlers and other members of the dog squad as he was cremated with full State honours. As he had not retired from service, a three-round gunfire salute was given to the fallen hero.

Many Police officers recalled Hero's heroic deeds. The ceremony was held under the leadership of City Armed Reserve (CAR) DCP Shivaraju, In-charge officer of Dog Squad K.M. Murthy, Inspector Somanna, Srinivas, Sub-Inspector Suresh and other officers.

WORD OF THE DAY

Smorgasbord

Pronunciation: SMOR-gus-bord.
Meaning: A luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes (such as hors d'oeuvres, hot and cold meats, smoked and pickled fish, cheeses, salads, and relishes); an often large heterogeneous mixture : mélange.
Origin: Although smorgasbord might make us think of a variety of foods, the Swedish word smörgås refers to a particular food item—an open sandwich or, alternatively, a slice of bread covered with butter—which is a staple of the traditional Swedish smorgasbord. (The word smör means "butter," and gås can mean "a lump of butter" as well as "goose.") Smörgås teamed up with the Swedish word bord, meaning "table" or "board," to form smorgasbord; the word first appeared in English in the later part of the 19th century. By the mid-20th century smorgasbord was being used outside of food-related contexts to refer to something that comprises a mixture or assemblage of different parts.
Example: "Each week, Bayle will highlight a spread inspired by both her New England and European adventures; this week's lineup features ... a smorgasbord starter kit featuring rye bread, cultured butter, cheese, pickles, cranberry preserves, and more." — Erin Kuschner, Boston.com, 8 Jan. 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Sacristy

Room in church where sacred objects are kept.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Scot-free

Meaning: If someone gets away scot-free, that means they got away freely from punishment or harm.
Origin: The origin of the phrase 'scot-free' is believed to be from somewhere in the 12th century. You might ask: 'What is a scot?' According to Robert Hendrickson's The Facts On File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins, a scot "was a municipal tax in 12th-century England." Hence, if someone were to avoid paying their taxes, they were getting away scot-free. In other words, they were getting away tax-free. Eventually, this phrase went on to describe, not just the avoidance of taxes, but people who avoided any sort of punishment or precarious situation; they get away freely, without harm.
So how old is this term? Quite old. It makes an early appearance in Robert Green's "Pandosoto" or "Dotastus and Fawnia," first published in the year 1588. This popular expression is found within this work:
"These and the like considerations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so that he was content rather to put up a manifest injury with peace, than hunt after revenge, dishonour and loss; determining, since Egistus had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria should pay for all at an unreasonable price."

QUOTE BOX

From every mountainside, let freedom ring. **—Martin Luther King, Jr.**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: All right on the night.

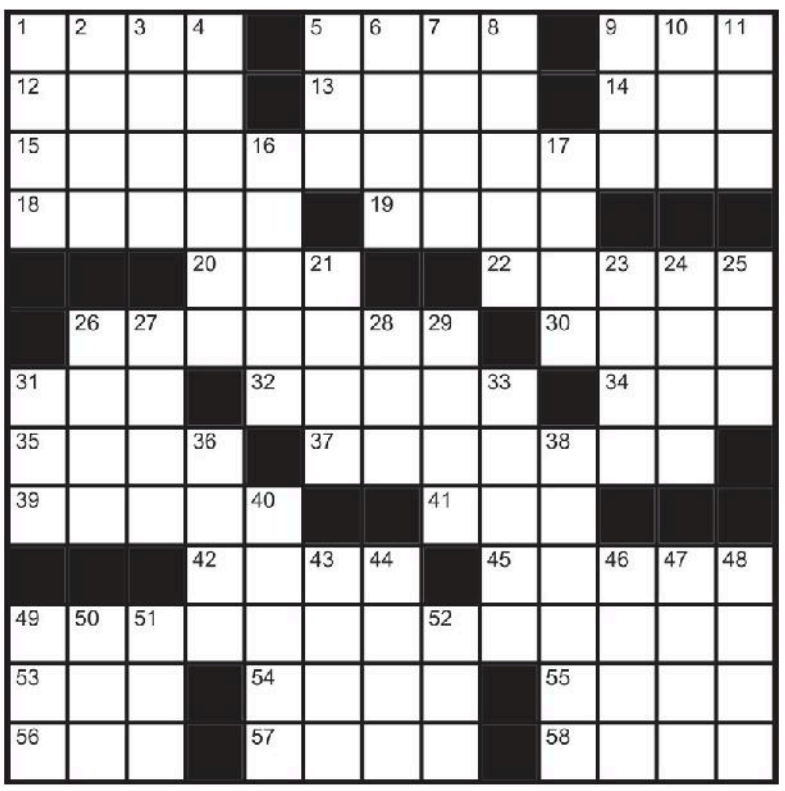
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Butter-like extract from African tree's seeds
5 Non-comm offs.
9 Extinct flightless bird
12 Trip to Mecca (var)
13 Bollywood's Prem ___ or Alok ___
14 A busy little worker
15 Adornment
18 Musical instrument
19 Ripped
20 Wool weight
22 Artist's prop
26 A sudden outburst (5-2)
30 Grow together
31 Latin trio
32 Come after
34 And for the German
35 Western movie "For _ __ Dollars More" (1,3)
37 Rubbish
39 Gold sovereign?
41 Resv. Bank of India
42 A young woman
45 Cosmetician Lauder
49 Pampering or fussing over too much
53 Hole-boring tool
54 Positive
55 "Done" anagram for a prefix?
56 Name for a boy or a donkey?
57 A river in Europe
58 Cheek

DOWN
1 What to visit when you go to bazaar?
2 WWI spy Mata ___
3 "Dane" changes into an English girl?
4 Historic caves ___ and Ellora
5 North North East on the compass
6 Hypocritical talk
7 Director Preminger
8 Give portion to others
9 May in France
10 "Double Fantasy" artist
11 Aeronautical Telecommunications Network
16 Sculptor Henry ___
17 Furniture wood
21 China's Xiao-ping
23 Cosy
24 One in Oldenburg
25 Limited, in short
26 If returned twice for a girl's name?
27 ___ through one's teeth : told falsehoods grossly or maliciously?
28 America
29 Feline sound
31 __ ___ The Walrus: The Beatles hit (1,2)
33 Receded
36 Brick erection
38 Gangways
40 Final authority
43 Move smoothly
44 Like a bear with a ____ head : very irritable?
46 Ms. Munim of Bollywood
47 Comes to a conclusion
48 Freudian terms
49 Adult male
50 Be indebted for
51 Attorney's deg.
52 "The" in German

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

B	U	M	F		A	T	A	P		O	H	M
A	P	A	E		L	I	E	U		B	E	A
D	A	H	L		T	A	R	R	Y	I	N	G
		A	O	N	E			G	E	E	S	E
C	A	N	N	Y		F	R	E	T			
A	I	A		X	Y	L	O		I	R	E	S
H	A	D			U	A	E			E	T	S
N	A	I	F		A	S	S	N		L	O	T
			L	I	N	K		T	W	I	N	S
A	R	S	O	N			G	H	E	E		
M	A	C	E	R	A	T	E		A	V	O	W
E	C	U		E	D	E	N		L	E	D	A
S	E	T		D	O	L	E		D	D	A	Y



SUDOKO

		8				5		
1				2				3
	7		4		9		1	
4			5		1			2
6			3		2			9
	1		9		3		8	
2				7				5
		5				4		

Answer to previous puzzle

7	5	3	1	6	2	4	8	9
8	4	9	3	5	7	6	1	2
6	1	2	9	4	8	7	5	3
3	7	4	6	9	5	1	2	8
5	6	8	4	2	1	3	9	7
2	9	1	8	7	3	5	6	4
4	3	5	2	1	9	8	7	6
1	2	6	7	8	4	9	3	5
9	8	7	5	3	6	2	4	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

BYTHT SN XG HTWP TXZSXK. SB'N AMNB BYT

UPWOT IYTHT LGM NBGU BYT NBGHL.

TODAY'S CLUE: K EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The first step toward success will be the biggest one.

NOW SHOWING - MOVIES

Movie	Theatre	Phone	Shows
Krishna Talkies (K)	Gayathri	2443568	4 Shows
	Sangam	2520494	4 Shows
Rewind (K)	Lakshmi	2443584	4 Shows
	Prabha	2423569	4 Shows
Yuvarathnaa (K)	Padma	2521923	4 Shows
	Mahadeshwara	9986022634	4 Shows
	Woodlands	2422871	4 Shows
Roberrt (K)	Saraswathi	2541451	4 Shows
Vakeel Saab (Te)	Lido	2420885	4 Shows
Chasing (Ta)	Rajkamal	2423554	4 Shows
Chakra (K)	Balaji Deluxe	2497199	4 Shows
Chakra (Ta)	Uma	2520009	4 Shows
	Thibbadevi	2452958	4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Yuvarathnaa (K)	(S-1)	1 pm, 4.05 pm
	(S-2)	10.20 am
	(S-4)	6.45 pm
99 Songs (H)	(S-1)	7.10 pm
	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Rewind (K)	(S-2)	1.30 pm
Karnan (Ta)	(S-2)	4 pm
	(S-3)	6.45 pm
Krishna Talkies (K)	(S-2)	7 pm
	(S-3)	10.25 am
	(S-4)	1.05 pm, 3.55 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	(S-3)	1.15 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE — Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Krishna Talkies (K)	(S-1)	1.40 pm
	(S-4)	10.50 am, 5.40 pm
Yuvarathnaa (K)	(S-2)	1.00 pm, 4.40 pm
Karnan (Ta)	(S-1)	10.10 am, 5.20 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	(S-3)	10.30 am, 5.00 pm
99 Songs (H)	(S-2)	9.55 am
	(S-4)	2.20 pm
Rewind (K)	(S-3)	2.00 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Yuvarathnaa (K)	(S-1)	10.45 am
	(S-3)	3.50 pm, 6.45 pm
Roberrt (K)	(S-1)	3.30 pm
Karnan (Ta)	(S-1)	6.40 pm
	(S-2)	1.10 pm
Rewind (K)	(S-2)	10.45 am
Krishna Talkies (K)	(S-2)	4.05 pm, 6.50 pm
	(S-3)	11 am
Vakeel Saab (Te)	(S-4)	10.45 am, 6.45 pm
99 Songs (H)	(S-4)	1.40 pm, 4.10 pm

PVR

Forum Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357088

99 Songs (H)	: 11.10 am, 2.15 pm, 5.30 pm
Yuvarathnaa (K)	: 10.50 am, 5.20 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	: 10.40 am, 5.05 pm
Godzilla Vs Kong (E)	: 2.05 pm
Karnan (Ta)	: 11 am, 2.25 pm, 6.10 pm
Krishna Takies (K)	: 11.15 am, 2.30 pm, 5.40 pm
Kho Kho (Ma)	: 2.25 pm

Garuda Mall, 1st Floor. Mob: 9901357088

Krishna Talkies (K)	: 10.40 am, 5.15 pm
Yuvarathnaa (K)	: 1.55 pm
99 Songs (H)	: 11.05 am, 2.10 pm, 5.55 pm
Godzilla Vs Kong (E)	: 2.55 pm
Karnan (Ta)	: 11.30 am, 2.15 pm, 5.25 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	: 10.50 am, 5.40 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here.

Popular Tamil actor, comedian Vivekh dies of cardiac arrest

Chennai, Apr. 17- Popular Tamil actor and comedian Vivekh died this morning in the hospital hours after he was admitted after a cardiac arrest.

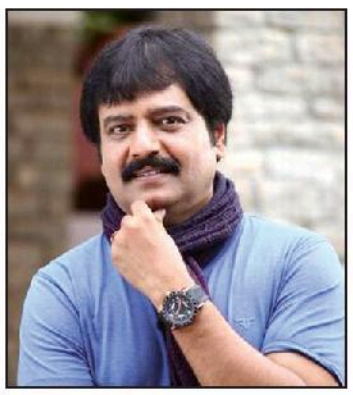
The 59-year-old was reportedly critical in a Chennai Hospital after a cardiac arrest on Thursday morning. He was brought in unconscious at 11 am, was resuscitated, subsequently underwent coronary angiogram and then angioplasty. Medical bulletin said he was critical on ECMO support, which pumps and oxygenates blood outside the body, but died at 4.35 am today.

On Thursday, Vivekh had taken his first COVID vaccine shot at a public event in the presence of Tamil Nadu's Health Secretary to promote vaccination.

The hospital clarified that he suffered an acute coronary syndrome with cardiogenic shock. There was 100 percent blockage in a vessel and his cardiac arrest may not be due to vaccination.

"Vivekh was one of those who voluntarily came forward to create awareness on public health and social issues. The cardiac arrest he suffered had no link with the COVID vaccine shot that he took," Tamil Nadu Health Secretary Dr. Radhakrishnan said.

His vaccination was at a public event with TV channels carrying photographs of him taking the shot. As the cardiac arrest happened less than 24 hours after the inoculation, there were questions raised, which have been clarified by doctors.



His sudden death has sent his fans of over two generations into mourning. Many of his colleagues tweeted their tribute to the evergreen actor.

Vivekh ventured into cinema in 1987 and was introduced by Director K. Balachander, who is credited with finding and grooming superstars like Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. Over the years, he evolved into a brilliant performer who was often portrayed as the lead actor's friend and got a lot of screen time, very often the best lines that he delivered with perfect timing.

The actor starred with Rajinikanth in Shankar's *Sivaji* and in *Anniyan* with actor Vikram.

The actor's comedic performances often carried a social message and commentary. Many of his film clips went viral on social media and are very popularly used to make comments on political and social issues.

Vivekh earned respect, fame and immense love not just for his performances but his professionalism and humility. He would often quote former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and actively participated in green causes like afforestation.

He was a Tamil Nadu Government-appointed Ambassador along with actress Jyothika against use of plastic.

In 2015, he lost his 13-year-old son Prasanna to brain fever and dengue. That only steeled his resolve to volunteer for health and social causes.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters Amrithanandini and Tejaswini.

His body was kept at his Virugambakkam residence in Chennai for people to pay their last respects.

EVENTS TODAY (APRIL 17)

- **Kalasuruchi:** 'Kathe Kelona Banni,' Story-telling by Raveesh Kumar, retd. Kannada teacher and State Resource Person, Mysuru, Suruchi Rangamane, #476, Chitrabhanu Road, Kuvempunagar, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.** [Also available on Kalasuruchi's YouTube channel: *https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYkI-Bxn_t2EidNOKCqggg*; Mob: 92435-81097 or 99459-43115]
- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** 12th Vasantha Navarathri Mahotsava, Dashamahavidya Homa and Sri Lalitha Maha Yaga, Trayinyas premises, #8, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Gana Chandana Kalabalaga:** Old film songs programme titled 'Dr. P.B. Srinivas Ondu Nenapu,' Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha, JLB Road, **5 pm.** [Mob: 99026-37887]
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram:** Swami Yukteshanandaji talks on 'Divine life of Sri Ramakrishna,' Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Sharada Gaana Kala Mandira - Music and Veena Institution:** Virtual Karnatak Classical Vocal Recital by Dr. Paniveni Udayashankar [Facebook live: Sri Sharada Music and Veena Institution], **6 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (APRIL 18)

- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** 12th Vasantha Navarathri Mahotsava, Mahabhisheka, Saptashathi Parayana, Lalithopakhyana Parayana, Shrichakrarchana, **8.30 am;** Shri Dasha Varahi Homa, Trayinyas premises, #8, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Allama Research and Cultural Foundation:** Inauguration of the Foundation and seminar on 'Democracy and its Pillars (Columns) — Legislature, Executive, Judiciary and Media' — High Court Judge Justice Ashok G. Nijagannavar will inaugurate and speak on 'Democracy and Judiciary.' Former MLA YSV Datta will talk on 'Democracy and Legislature.' Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Executive Director D.P. Prakash will speak on 'Democracy and Executive' and senior journalist Dr. Jagadish Koppa will talk on 'Democracy and Media,' RamaGovinda Rangamandira, Nrupatunga Kannada School premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **10 am.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram:** Swami Shantivratanandaji talks on 'Khandana Bhava Bandhana,' Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**
- **Natana School of Theatre Arts:** Staging of Kavya Kadame Nagarakatte's play 'Door Number Yentu' by Vinyas theatre troupe (Directed by Dr. Chidananda N.K. Soraba), School premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm.**

IPL 2021

TODAY'S MATCH (APRIL 17)

MI Vs SRH — 7.30 pm

TOMORROW'S MATCHES (APRIL 18)

RCB Vs KKR — 3.30 pm

DC Vs PBKS — 7.30 pm

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

PBKS - 106 / 8 (20)
lose to
CSK - 107 / 4 (15.4)

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